

**PYRALID MOTHS IN PROFILE: PART 2 – *ACROBASIS TUMIDANA*
(DENNIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER)**

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ACROBASIS TUMIDANA D. & S. is readily separated from the similar *A. repandana* by the prominent ridge of raised reddish scales near the antemedian line and at the base of the forewing. Although the former may be partially flattened by setting these characters these are normally visible to the naked eye especially in live specimens. Nevertheless numerous specimens of *repandana* have been erroneously identified as the much rarer *tumidana* despite the obvious absence of these raised scale tufts. Accurate recording has been further confused by nomenclature name changes with *repandana* being known formerly as *tumidella*.

Before detailing those records supported by a correctly identified voucher specimen it is best to eliminate those published records of *tumidana* which on investigation have proved to be erroneous.

- 15.vii.1901, Glanvilles Wootton, Dorset (Dale, 1901).
- 1920-1957, Aldershot district, Hampshire (Richards, 1957).
- 7-14.viii.1935, (three) Fritton Lake, Suffolk (Morley, 1937).
- 3.ix.1962, (two) Buckingham Palace, London (McClintock, 1964).
- 15.vii.1964, Westonbirt, Gloucestershire (Newton, 1972).
- 18.viii.1987, Dinton, Wiltshire (Agassiz, 1989).

Authenticated specimens from the last century (Total 13)

From September 1858 it was taken, sometimes commonly, for at least four years, probably longer, in the environs of south-east London near Forest Hill by Messrs Robert McLachlan and Howard Vaughan. (McLachlan, 1861 and Barrett, 1903). Five specimens in the BM(NH) support this occurrence. It should be mentioned here that in the latter reference Barrett gives details of an additional example from Portsmouth, Hampshire, but this was later found to be incorrect (Huggins, 1958).

Other specimens in the collections of BM(NH) are:

- 17.viii.1873, Darenth (Kent), A.B. Farn.
- viii.1875, (four), Darenth (Kent), A.B. Farn.
- No date, West Wickham (Kent), Bond, Purdey Coll.
- 17.vii.1898, (two), Herne (Kent), Purdey Coll.

Authenticated specimens post 1900 (Total 16)

- vii.1918, Malvern Link, A. Day, Ford Coll. BM(NH).
- 1934, Tile Hill Wood, Warwickshire, J.W. Saunt, Coventry Museum.
- 2.viii.1951, Orlestone Wood, Kent, E.G. Hare.
- 28.vii.1989, Portland, Dorset, Portland Bird Observatory.
- 1.viii.1991, Dungeness, Kent, B. Skinner.

- 27.viii.1991, Greatstone, Kent, R. Turley.
 3.ix. 1991, Studland, Dorset, B. Skinner.
 1.viii.1992, Greatstone, Kent, B. Banson.
 10.viii.1992, Portland, Dorset, Portland Bird Observatory.
 10.viii.1992, Greatstone, Kent, B. Banson.
 17.viii.1992, Dungeness, Kent, D. Walker.
 15.viii.1992, (three), Pagham, Sussex, R. McCormick.
 14.viii.1993, Pagham, Sussex, B. Skinner.
 4.viii.1994, Christchurch, Hampshire, M. Jeffs.
 11.viii.1994, Pagham, Sussex, B. Skinner.

An analysis of these records would suggest that *tumidana* was at some time during the last century established in south-east London and north-west Kent. One cannot rule out the possibility that these residents were the result of colonisation by immigrants, but the location makes it more likely that they were relict populations destined to be doomed by habitat destruction. At that time much of Forest Hill and surroundings were dominated by the oak woodland of the Great North Wood and Darenth from its past history must have been an entomological Shangri-la.

The origin of both records from central England taken during the first half of this Century is not easily explained, perhaps they too were the last survivors of relict populations; certainly this Century has seen the demise of other resident species of Pyralid in the Midlands.

On the remaining captures, all post 1950, there is enough evidence to accept most of them as immigrants; only the most recent from Sussex might indicate a possible colonisation.

For the sake of completeness the final list details those published records which because of the absence of voucher specimens cannot be confirmed or disproved.

- 28.viii.1895, Shoreham, Sussex, A.C. Vine (Goss & Fletcher, 1905).
 31.viii.1895, Shoreham, Sussex, A.C. Vine (Goss & Fletcher, 1905).
 Pre 1905, Charmandean, Sussex, H.B. Fletcher (Goss & Fletcher, 1905).
 Pre 1908, Folkestone, Kent (Goss & Bower, 1908).
 7.viii.1904, Studland, Dorset, F.H. Fisher (Richardson, 1913).
 18.vii.1936, Henswood, Wiltshire (Anon, 1939).
 1952, Tile Hill Wood, Warwickshire, S.E.W. Carlier (Robbins, 1992).
 1978, Claret Lodge, Leicestershire, H. Weston-Bird (McPhail, 1993).
 The records from Lancashire and Cheshire in (Ellis revised Mansbridge, 1940) are the result of muddled nomenclature, see (Ellis, 1890) and (Day, 1903).

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***Scythris picaepennis* (Haw.) (Lep.: Scythrididae): extended emergence or possible bivoltinism in South Wiltshire**

Between 1986 and 1991 I recorded *Scythris picaepennis* from four separate locations in South Wiltshire (VC8). Records from three of these sites corresponded with the stated imago emergence period, *i.e.* July (Meyrick, 1927; Emmet, 1988 and Emmet, 1991) and mid-June to end of July (Bengtsson, 1984). However at the fourth site, Boscombe Down, the moth was occasionally found to be quite common well beyond the end of July (see list below). It should be borne in mind that these were casual observations and not exhaustive searches.

3rd July 1989 - 1	10th July 1990 - 1
3rd August 1989 - 6	17th July 1990 - 1
10th August 1989 - 30	29th August 1990 - 15
5th September 1989 - 18	5th September 1990 - 1
	13th September 1990 - 1

In northern Europe the Scythrididae are mostly univoltine but a few may be bivoltine; in any case they have a very extended flight period (Bengtsson,